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SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 4-H CLUB WORK

A radio talk by Gertrude L. Warren, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, delivered in the 4-H club radio program, National Farm and Home Hour, over a network of 58 associate NBC stations, Saturday, April 2, 1932.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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An able citizen of Washington whose name often appears in the papers and who has seen much of the work of you 4-H club members said to me yesterday:

"The spirit, enthusiasm, and determination of 4-H club members in the face of depression is inspiring. Without fear, and sometimes even with enjoyment, they are helping their families to come through the crises."

I have been going over the 1931 4-H club reports and have found many a story confirming this man's comment. Your club stories indicate that training in your 60,000 clubs has well fitted you 850,000 4-H members to meet the needs of these times.

During 1931, in keeping with the "Live-at-Home" program of Agricultural Extension Work you 4-H club girls canned nearly 4,000,000 jars of fruits, vegetables, and meats for the winter's food supply - or enough to meet the winter needs of 20,000 farm families. Over 100,000 of you applied your food club training to the preparation of nutritious meals in keeping with the principles of a well-balanced diet and a reduced family budget. More than 300,000 of you have cheerfully made and repaired clothing for yourselves and for your younger brothers and sisters. While club stories of over 80,000 of you girls tell how you added comfort and beauty to your homes by refinishing furniture, painting the woodwork, making simple, attractive furnishings, and planting native shrubs around your own farmsteads. Yes, and in many cases, you 4-H club boys helped!

But that was a small part of what you boys did. How about your farming returns? Suppose each of you 4-H club boys should take your 1931 crop and livestock products to a central place. What would be the total? Let's see the picture! 45,000 bales of cotton; 850,000 bushels of potatoes; and over a million and half bushels of corn; not to mention the other cereals - wheat, oats, rye, and barley - all produced by modern up-to-date farm practices. Then the livestock, the 50,000 head of dairy cattle; the 16,000 head of beef cattle; the 30,000 head of sheep; the 80,000 pigs. Yes, and over two million birds in the 4-H poultry club blocks! In other words, it would take over an hour for a fast freight train to carry by you, standing near the tracks, the carloads of products you have raised for market. And I have not said a word about your activities in forestry, rural engineering, farm accounting, or other lines of farming in which you 4-H club boys have done splendid work in meeting your own needs as well as those of your homes or communities. Then, of course, there are the accomplishments of the small fruit work, the beekeeping, as well as the gardening in which more than 30,000 of you club members raised vegetables in keeping with your family food budgets.

And that brings me to the management of the dollar. As a result of your personal account keeping, many of you now understand exactly how you spent your money and the relation of your needs to your present limited farm family budget. Reports indicate that you are saving as well as earning money in order to go to college, to start farming, or to do something else equally commendable.

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In addition, reports indicate that, although you 4-H young people had little money to spend on recreation, yet most of you have had good times. In your 4-H clubs you have learned how to sing as well as work together, to stage community plays and pageants, and to take part in other simple forms of recreation that cost little, but bring cheer to all the people in your communities. More than that your club stories reveal that you have done much in improving your own health, in assuming leadership in various community activities, and in helping those less fortunate - farm girls and boys who otherwise would have had to discontinue both their club and school work - and in instances, whole families in need.

The considerable increase in the enrollment for 1931 and the indications of a still greater increase in 1932, are proof of your faith and enthusiasm in your 4-H club activities. And this faith and enthusiasm of yours is proving also a great sustaining influence to your county extension agents who have won public approval for their practical and efficient work in guiding your efforts, and who also are looking forward with us to your list of achievements when the work for 1932 is totaled.